

# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Volume 1 Issue 1

The Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program is pleased to announce the establishment of its newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as an informative resource regarding news and events for individuals interested in child passenger safety. We welcome article submissions and requests for topics in an effort to make the newsletter as beneficial as possible. If you are interested in submitting material or suggestions for future newsletters please contact us at 978-877-6002 or by e-mail at [cps@fisher.edu](mailto:cps@fisher.edu). Thank you for your support and dedication to child passenger safety.

## Diversity Committee

The Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Program is developing a diversity plan to be implemented in partnership with state, local and private organizations. The plan commits to increasing the safety and quality of life for the diverse populations across the state, where adults and children are at highest risk for motor vehicle-related injuries and fatalities. These populations are not traditionally the recipients of the services of the CPS program, and the lack of diversity and bilingual skills of the almost 600 certified CPS technicians has resulted in less interaction and trust.

The diversity program will involve outreach to community leaders for program support, creating specialized programs, recruiting and training bilingual CPS technician candidates from minority populations and hosting check up events for educating parents and caregivers in targeted areas. A committee is currently being formed to include diversity specialists and CPS representatives to finalize and help implement the plan. We will be selecting a few CPS technicians and instructors to participate. If you are interested in this committee, please email us at [cps@fisher.edu](mailto:cps@fisher.edu) by March 16, 2009 using CPS - Diversity Committee followed by your last name in the subject line.

## Inside

Welcome Back

Upcoming Classes

New Technicians

CPS Talking Points

Manufacturer's  
Information

CPS Talking Points  
References

*Coming Soon:*

Update Classes

Special Needs  
Class

**MASSACHUSETTS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY HOTLINE**  
**AT 1-877-392-5956 OR TTY 617-725-0261**  
**[WWW.MASS.GOV/CHILDSAFETYSEATS](http://WWW.MASS.GOV/CHILDSAFETYSEATS)**

Deval L. Patrick, *Governor*  
Timothy P. Murray, *Lt. Governor*  
Kevin M. Burke, *Secretary of Public Safety and Security*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**EOPSS**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

*The CPS Program would like to welcome back the individuals who have renewed their technician certification:*

Richard Bailey, MA CPS Program  
Scott Bailey, Southbridge Police Department  
Elizabeth Blanchard, Natick Police Department  
Deborah Burns, Hanover Police Department  
Kym Craven, MA CPS Program  
Sarah D'Angelo, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Timothy Doane, Marblehead Fire Department  
Lorri Emond, GATRA  
Michael Findlen, Norfolk Fire Department  
Wayne Gilbert, Action Ambulance  
Michelle Halloran, Reading Police Department  
Brian Lauzon, Natick Police Department  
Robert LeGrice, Randolph Police Department  
Mark Miller, Action Ambulance  
Seth Newman, Massachusetts State Police  
Wayne Oliveira, Fairhaven Fire Department  
Michael Peters, Raynham Fire Department  
Cara Rossi-Cafarelli, Natick Police Department  
Daniel Simons, Boston Police Department  
Philip Tura, Bourne Fire Department

## Upcoming Classes

### 4-day CPS Technician Courses

March 11, 12, 20 and 21, 2009	Holyoke Fire Department
April 8, 9, 17 and 18, 2009	COMM Fire Department, Barnstable

### One-day Renewal Courses

March 19, 2009	Holyoke Fire Department
April 16, 2009	COMM Fire Department, Barnstable

To register for classes, please go to:  
[www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats](http://www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats) and click  
on the Upcoming CPS Technician Classes  
link.

### Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Program

118 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
[cps@fisher.edu](mailto:cps@fisher.edu)  
978-877-6002

*The following individuals successfully completed Technician Certification between October through December of 2008:*

Nicole Adamson, RFK Children's Action Corps  
Nicole Allen, Boston Police Department  
Lamont Anderson, Boston Police Department  
John Arsenault, Lynn Fire Department  
Diva Ayuso  
Timothy Barros, Wellesley Police Department  
John Barry, Lynn Fire Department  
John Barry, Lynn Fire Department  
Joseph Bombardier, Whitman Police Department  
Donald Bourgeois, Lowell Police Department  
Donald Call, Beverly Police Department  
Denny Chan, Boston EMS  
Beth Coady, MA CPS Program - Fisher College  
Steve Conley, Oak Bluffs Police Department  
Sean Conneely, Hull Police Department  
Rafael Del-Razo, Boston EMS  
Jeff Dudley, Leominster Police Department  
Kerry Egan, Boston Police Department  
Lindsey Elliott, Children's Hospital  
Adam Foss, Salisbury Fire Department  
James Halkola, Phillipston Police Department  
Jay Hardy, Boston Police Department  
Martin Harrison, Boston Police Department  
Scott Holt, Littleton Fire Department  
Richard Kinney, Leominster Police Department  
Milton Kinney, Middlesex Sheriffs  
Stacy Leavens, Martha Eliot Health Center

Francisco Maldonado, Lowell Police Department  
Christine Marini, Boston Police Department  
Gary Marino, Boston Police Department  
James Martinez, Boston Fire Department/Boston Society of Vulcans  
Kevin McCaul, Wakefield Police Department  
Sue Mcguire-Doyle, Salisbury Fire Department  
Jermaine Mendez, Oak Bluffs Police Department  
Deborah Mikus, Lowell General Hospital  
Antonio Nunez, Boston Police Department  
Billy Owens, Boston Fire Department/Boston Society of Vulcans  
Michael Petrilli II, Dracut Fire Department  
Larry Pitcher, Lynn Fire Department  
David Porter, Cambridge Police Department  
Greg Robichaud, Leominster Police Department  
Felicia Robinson, Boston EMS  
William Slyne, Boston Police Department  
Robert Stokinger, Whitman Police Department  
Kimberly Sully, Boston EMS  
Jeffrey Tache, Beverly Police Department  
Robert Tobin, Kiessling Transit Inc.  
Matthew Waugh, Holliston Police Department  
Graham Williams, Boston EMS  
John Windley, Boston EMS  
Richard Woodward, Leominster Police Department

# CPS Talking Points

*Motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of death among children in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> But many of these deaths can be prevented. Placing children in age- and size-appropriate car seats and booster seats reduces serious and fatal injuries by more than half.<sup>2</sup>*

## How big is the problem?

- In the United States during 2005, 1,335 children ages 14 years and younger died as occupants in motor vehicle crashes, and approximately 184,000 were injured. That's an average of 4 deaths and 504 injuries each day.<sup>2</sup>
- Among children under age 5, in 2006, an estimated 425 lives were saved by car and booster seat use.<sup>2</sup>

## What are the risk factors?

- One out of four occupant deaths among children ages 0 to 14 years involved an alcohol impaired driver.<sup>3</sup> More than two-thirds of these fatally injured children were riding with an alcohol impaired driver.<sup>4</sup>
- Restraint use among young children often depends upon the driver's seat belt use. Almost 40% of children riding with unbelted drivers were themselves unrestrained.<sup>5</sup>
- Child restraint systems are often used incorrectly. One study found that 72% of nearly 3,500 observed car and booster seats were misused in a way that could be expected to increase a child's risk of injury during a crash.<sup>6</sup>

## How can injuries to children in motor vehicles be prevented?

- Child safety seats reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants, and by 54% for toddlers ages 1 to 4 years.<sup>2</sup>
- There is strong evidence that child safety seat laws, safety seat distribution and education programs, community- wide enforcement campaigns, and incentive-plus-education programs are effective in increasing child safety seat use.<sup>7</sup>
- Massachusetts law requires proper use of booster seats for children until they are at least 8 years of age or 4'9" tall.<sup>8</sup>
- According to researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, for children 4 to 7 years, booster seats reduce injury risk by 59% compared to seat belts alone.<sup>9</sup>
- All children ages 12 years and younger should ride in the back seat. Adults should avoid placing children in front of airbags. Putting children in the back seat eliminates the injury risk of deployed front passenger-side air bags and places children in the safest part of the vehicle in the event of a crash.

Overall, for children less than 16 years, riding in the back seat is associated with a 40% reduction in the risk of serious injury.<sup>10</sup> To learn more about effective interventions to increase child safety seat use, visit CDC's Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety page.

The following is a list of child safety seat companies and their contact information. This is a great reference to keep in case you may need to call customer service to answer a question, look up seats on their web page or print out directions for a seat.

## Manufacturer Phone Numbers and Web Sites

For more information on the seats listed in this guide, please contact the individual manufacturers.

Baby Trend  
800/328-7363  
[www.babytrend.com](http://www.babytrend.com)

Britax Child Safety  
888/427-4829  
[www.britaxusa.com](http://www.britaxusa.com)

Chicco USA  
877/424-4226  
[www.chiccousa.com](http://www.chiccousa.com)

Clek  
866/656-2462  
[www.magnaclek.com](http://www.magnaclek.com)

Combi International  
800/992-6624  
[www.combi-intl.com](http://www.combi-intl.com)

Compass Baby by Learning Curve  
800/533-6708 [www.learningcurve.com/compass](http://www.learningcurve.com/compass)

Cosco, Inc.  
800/544-1108  
[www.coscojuvenile.com](http://www.coscojuvenile.com)

Eddie Bauer  
800/544-1108 [www.djgusa.com/eddiebauer](http://www.djgusa.com/eddiebauer)

Evenflo Company Inc.  
800/233-5921  
[www.evenflo.com](http://www.evenflo.com)

E-Z-ON Products  
800/323-6598  
[www.ezonpro.com](http://www.ezonpro.com)

Fisher-Price  
800/432-5437  
[www.fisher-price.com](http://www.fisher-price.com)  
Graco  
800/345-4109  
[www.gracobaby.com](http://www.gracobaby.com)

Jané  
866/355-2630  
[www.janeusa.com](http://www.janeusa.com)

Maxi Cosi  
800/951-4113  
[www.maxi-cosi.com](http://www.maxi-cosi.com)

Mia Moda  
866/642-6632  
[www.miamodainc.com](http://www.miamodainc.com)

Orbit Baby  
877/672-2229  
[www.orbitbaby.com](http://www.orbitbaby.com)

Peg Perego USA, Inc.  
800/671-1701  
[www.pegperego.com](http://www.pegperego.com)

Recaro of North America  
248/364-3818  
[www.recaro.com](http://www.recaro.com)

Safe Traffic System, Inc.  
773/509-0530  
[www.safetrafficsystem.com](http://www.safetrafficsystem.com)

SafeGuard  
800/586-7839  
[www.safeguardseat.com](http://www.safeguardseat.com)

Safety Angel  
888/743-3798  
[www.safetyangel.com](http://www.safetyangel.com)

Safety 1st  
800/544-1108  
[www.safety1st.com](http://www.safety1st.com)  
Sunshine Kids Juvenile Products  
888/336-7909  
[www.sunshinekidsjp.com](http://www.sunshinekidsjp.com)

TriplePlay Products, LLC  
800/829-1625  
[www.tripleplayproducts.com](http://www.tripleplayproducts.com)

## *CPS Talking Points References*

- 1) CDC. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System [online]. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (producer). Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars). [2008 May 5].
- 2) Department of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Traffic Safety Facts 2006: Children. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2008. [cited 2008 May 5]. Available from URL: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2005/810618.pdf>.
- 3) Department of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Traffic Safety Facts 2006: Alcohol-Impaired Driving. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2008 [cited 2008 May 5]. Available from URL: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.6a6eaf83cf719ad24ec86e10dba046a0/>.
- 4) Shults RA. Child passenger deaths involving drinking drivers—United States, 1997–2002 [published erratum appears in MMWR 2004;53(5):109]. MMWR 2004;53(4):77–9.
- 5) Cody BE, Mickalide AD, Paul HP, Colella JM. Child passengers at risk in America: a national study of restraint use. Washington (DC): National SAFE KIDS Campaign; 2002. Available from URL: [http://www.usa.safekids.org/content\\_documents/ACFD6C.pdf](http://www.usa.safekids.org/content_documents/ACFD6C.pdf)
- 6) Department of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Traffic Safety Facts Research Note 2005: Misuse of Child Restraints: Results of a Workshop to Review Field Data Results. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2006. Available from URL: [http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/TSF\\_MisuseChildRestraints/images/809851.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/research/TSF_MisuseChildRestraints/images/809851.pdf). [cited 2008 March 19]
- 7) Zaza, S, Sleet DA, Thompson RS, Sosin DM, Bolen JC, Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to increase the use of child safety seats. American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2001 : 21 (4S), 31-47.
- 8) Commonwealth of Massachusetts [mass.gov](http://mass.gov). Boston (MA): 2008. Available from URL: <http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/2008/04/new-booster-seat-law.html> [cited 2009 February 25]
- 9) Durbin DR, Elliott MR, Winston FK. Belt-positioning booster seats and reduction in risk of injury among children in vehicle crashes. JAMA 2003;289(14):2835–40.
- 10) Durbin DR, Chen I, Smith R, Elliott MR, Winston FK. Effects of seating position and appropriate restraint use on the risk of injury to children in motor vehicle crashes. Pediatrics 2005;115:305-9.  
Content Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention.